

Village of Union Springs

P.O. Box 99

Union Springs, New York 13160

INCORPORATED 1848

(315) 889-7341 • Fax (315) 889-7342

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September 14 2012

Isabel R. Rodríguez
Remedial Project Manager
Western New York Remediation Section
United States Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway, 20th floor
New York, NY 10007 – 1866

RE: Proposed Plan Cayuga County Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site
Townships of Aurelius, Springport and Fleming and Village of Union Springs,
Cayuga County - Interim Actions

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

In response to the Proposed Plan to remediate contaminated groundwater at the Cayuga County groundwater contamination Superfund site, the Village has the following comments:

The Superfund site contamination has flowed from the site to contaminate the water supply for the Village. There is no recognition in the Plan of the difficulty and expense incurred by the Village in the interim between the discovery of the contamination more than 10 years ago and the planned elimination of the contamination in the next 7 to 30 years.

The Village water system is serving more than 3000 people. To date, the Village has incurred some \$250,000 in costs to construct a water stripper tower for its water supply.

The Village has incurred and is incurring some \$36,000 a year in operation and maintenance costs of the stripper. These expenses to our taxpayers have been necessary to treat the drinking water of the Village and bring it within federal and state standards.

In addition, the Village plans to add a backup generator sufficient to run the stripper tower, for an additional expense.

These costs were necessitated only by the VOC contamination.

The Proposed Plan may have been misleading in its comments regarding the present condition of the water. The raw water from the wells arriving at the Village stripper tower continues to exceed state standards of contamination by volatile organic compounds. It is only after treatment that water meets state standards.

As the interim period continues, costs of energy and chemicals will surely increase.

The costs over the last 11 years were approximately \$650,000, and looking forward we will incur an additional \$250,000 to \$1,100,000 based only on today's cost of power and chemicals.

The Proposed Plan does not take into account these impacts on our community during this interim period.

Very truly yours,

Johan Lehtonen
Mayor